THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) At present about 144 million cubic metres per day of natural gas is being flared in the Western Offshore fields. Additional facilities for evacuation and compression are proposed to be set up so that the gas can be brought on shore and supplied to consumers.

(c) An inter-ministerial committees is being appointed to examine the various issues pertaining to establishment of a Southern Gas Grid.

(d) The Gas Authority of India have proposed a project for supply of natural gas to domestic consumers as also industrial and commercial consumers in Bombay. The proposal is under consideration of the Government. The feasibility of supplying natural gas in Delhi is also being studied.

Development of industrial backward districts in Orissa

634. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 544 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1989 and to state :

(a) what are the proposals with the Central Government for development of the industrially backward districts in Orissa;

(b) whether any scheme has been drawn up in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The industrialisation of a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, in order to promote industrialisation and reduce regional imbalances, the Central Government offers a number of incentives such as priority in the grant of industrial licences, concessional finance, exemption from income tax etc. to entrepreneurs setting up units in centrally declared backward areas. In the case of Orissa, a total of 8 backward districts are eligible for such concessions, in addition, the Central Government has also sanctioned 3 growth centres to Orissa under the 'No Industry District' Infrastructural Development Scheme, which are under various stages of implementation. Grotwh centres are also proposed to be established in Orissa under the new Growth Centre Scheme.

Setting up of industries in the 'No Industy Districtrs' at Orissa

635. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many 'No Industry Districts' are there in the the country ;

(b) whether there are some such districts in Orissa also ;

(c) if so, what are their names ; and

(d) what steps have been taken to set up industries in those 'No Industry Districts'?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) 93 districts have been identified as 'No Industry Districts'.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, Balasore, Bolangir and Phulbani are the three 'No Industry Districts' in the State of Orissa.

(d) Industrialisation of specific districts/areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory concerned. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing

various incentives and concessions. Interpreneurs setting up industries in 'No Industry Districts' are eligible for concessional Finance, Exemption from Income-Tax, Priority in the grant of industrial licences etc.

During the last five years following Letters of Intent and Industrial licences have been issued for the three 'No Industry Districts of Orissa.

Year	LOIs	ILs
1985 . . .	11	5
1986 . . .	5	1
1987 . . .	5	3
1988 . . .	2	1
1989 . . .	5	..

Salary and Allowances to the village Health Guides

636. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the rate at which salary and allowances are being given to the village Health Guides in different States ;

(b) whether there is a need to enhance the salary and allowances of the village Health Guides; and

(c) if so, what are the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) The Village Health Guides are paid an honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month in order to meet the out of pocket expenses. The health Guides are volunteers selected by the Community having a vocation of their own.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration.

Purchase of Westland Helicopters

637. SHRI A.G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increased accidents of the Westland helicopters has demoralised ONGC and its field staff and, if so, what steps are being proposed either to rectify the defects to improve their working or to replace the fleet ;

(b) whether any thorough probe has taken place into the purchase and maintenance of these helicopters ; and

(c) Who are the major shareholders or partners of the company in U.K. which sold these helicopters to Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) The accidents have been a cause of concern to ONGG and also to the Pilots of Pawan Hans Limited. Government, therefore, decided to keep the entire Westland fleet grounded till corrective measures are taken on the basis of report to be submitted by the Hussainy Committee appointed for examining various operational/safety aspects of the helicopters.

(b) A Committee has been constituted to go into the various aspects relating to the purchase of Westland helicopters.

(c) M/s. Westland Helicopters Limited is a fully owned subsidiary of Westland Group Plc.